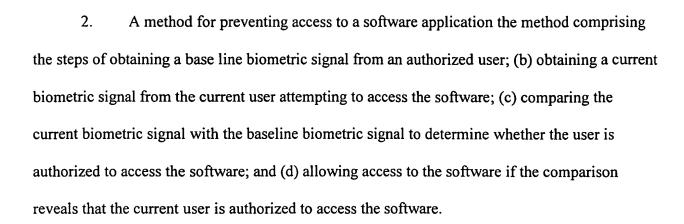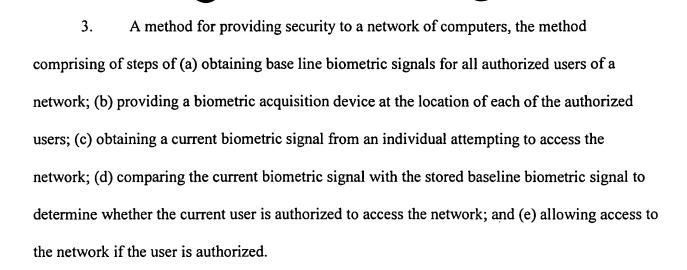5   1.   A control device for authenticating the identification of a user prior to access to a

software application, the control device comprising:

a)   a biometric signal acquisition module;

b)   an area on the acquisition device through which the biometric acquisition

module may obtain the biometric signal of a user of the control device; and

10   c)   a software interface for preventing access to a software application by

unauthorized users.

5   2.   A method for preventing access to a software application the method comprising

the steps of obtaining a base line biometric signal from an authorized user; (b) obtaining a current

biometric signal from the current user attempting to access the software; (c) comparing the

current biometric signal with the baseline biometric signal to determine whether the user is

authorized to access the software; and (d) allowing access to the software if the comparison

10   reveals that the current user is authorized to access the software.

3.   A method for providing security to a network of computers, the method comprising of steps of (a) obtaining base line biometric signals for all authorized users of a network; (b) providing a biometric acquisition device at the location of each of the authorized users; (c) obtaining a current biometric signal from an individual attempting to access the network; (d) comparing the current biometric signal with the stored baseline biometric signal to determine whether the current user is authorized to access the network; and (e) allowing access to the network if the user is authorized.

4.   The method set forth in the claim 3 above further comprising the step of denying access to the network if the current user is not authorized.

5.   The method set forth in the claim 3 above further comprising the step of storing the biometric from an unauthorized user attempting to access the network and providing that biometric to the manager of the network.